

**MOTION BY SUPERVISORS MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS  
AND HILDA SOLIS**

**APRIL 14, 2015**

**Funding Transfer for Programs for Child Sex Trafficking Victims**

In 2007, funding was set aside by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to create and implement a Healthier Communities, Stronger Families, and Thriving Children (HST) initiative. Since then, there has been little to no action taken to implement the initial concept and expend the funds. Over this same period of time, priorities have shifted for the County of Los Angeles (County) and there are a number of obligations and emerging issues for which funding must be identified.

The problem of child sex trafficking is an example of an issue that has emerged and gained increasing attention locally, nationally, and internationally. The CEO's fiscal year 2015-16 Recommended Budget includes \$300,000 of ongoing funding to offset the cost of the Success Through Achievement and Resilience (STAR) Court program. This delinquency court program is noted for its work with juveniles involved in, or at-risk of, commercial sexual exploitation to provide intensive supervision by judicial officers, probation officers, advocates, and counselors to monitor the youths' progress and develop placement, counseling, and diversion services and programming. Given the County's evolving priorities and funding needs, and the increasing priority of assisting

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MOTION

SOLIS \_\_\_\_\_

RIDLEY-THOMAS \_\_\_\_\_

KUEHL \_\_\_\_\_

KNABE \_\_\_\_\_

ANTONOVICH \_\_\_\_\_

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victims of sex trafficking, it is important that available resources be used effectively.

**WE THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

Direct the Interim Chief Executive Officer to report back during Budget Deliberations in June regarding the transfer of \$6,738,000 of Healthier Communities, Stronger Families, Thriving Children funds from the Chief Executive Office's (CEO) budget to the Provisional Financing Uses (PFU) budget and work with the Chief of Probation and the Directors of the Departments of Children and Family Services, Health Services, Mental Health, and Public Social Services to report back in writing in 30 days with:

- 1) the feasibility of utilizing these funds to offset the \$300,000 in ongoing net County cost related to the Success Through Achievement and Resilience (STAR) Court program;
- 2) other services, programming, interventions, and recovery solutions for sexually exploited children that can be funded with this funding source including a prospective dependency specialty court program to serve "at-risk" and foster care youth that are involved in, or at-risk of, commercial sexual exploitation to decrease the likelihood of any involvement with the criminal justice system; and
- 3) recommendations for dedicated staffing and evaluation tools and resources that track the magnitude of sexually exploited children within the County of Los Angeles and an assessment of the outcomes of the services rendered to this population including the impact of the STAR Court Program.

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(DJ/DJJ/LM)